

the RARS

# Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

February, 2001  
Number 364

ROSTER ISSUE

## **RALEIGH WEATHER**

**KG4CXR** copies SKYWARN reports at the NWS office in Raleigh



**2nd Annual  
SKYWARN  
Conference  
February 17**

**Next RARS Meeting:  
Tuesday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**

**- SKYWARN -  
Spotter Training  
don't be late!**



## The Exciter

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

## The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).

## Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Tim Nicholson KF4RTX</b> 501-7746 <a href="mailto:kf4rtx@arri.net">kf4rtx@arri.net</a>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Bob Breyer K1RCB</b> 848-7761 <a href="mailto:breyer@ix.netcom.com">breyer@ix.netcom.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Jeff Wittich AC4ZO</b> 362-9456 <a href="mailto:ac4zo@arri.net">ac4zo@arri.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Greg Seamster KE4PAX</b> 859-0029 <a href="mailto:ke4pax@arri.net">ke4pax@arri.net</a>
<b>Exciter Editor</b>	<b>Gary Pearce KN4AQ</b> 380-9944 <a href="mailto:kn4aq@arri.net">kn4aq@arri.net</a>



## Info

### Repeaters:

145.13  
146.64  
224.64  
444.525 (88.5 PL)

### Web Site:

<http://www.rars.org>

## President's Corner

**Tim Nicholson KF4RTX**

### Back On The Air!

Finally! A dipole! I finally took/ found the time to install a 40 meter dipole in the attic. I didn't realize how much I missed HF. Not that I'm on it that much, but it really made me feel bad seeing the Ten Tec sitting silently in the shack. With the new dipole, I have 3 of the 5 bands back that I had with the outside antenna.

Spring is in the air. Or at least it's on my mind. I don't know about you, but I am ready for some warm weather. Spring also means that 20 and 15 meters will stay open a little longer, which will give me an opportunity to play radio after I get home from work.

I would like to thank Ron Ford KG4FJA and the Wake ARES group for having such a great meeting in January. It was very informative and exciting. If you haven't had an opportunity to attend one of the meetings, I urge you to plan on coming to one soon. Just seeing the newly renovated communications room is worth the visit. Keep up the good work Ron and crew!

I also want to thank Bob Breyer K1RCB, our VP, for coordinating the meeting programs and bringing drinks to the meeting again. Seems our former VP (I won't name names) fell down on that job. And I'm sure Bob would appreciate some snack suggestions. Also, if you have an idea for a program topic, let him know. It really helps to know what everyone is interested in so we can provide informative and interesting programs.

For those of you interested in SKYWARN, don't forget about the SKYWARN conference this month. It's also 2 months before **RARSfest 2001**, and it's not too early to begin volunteering. If you don't know who to contact to volunteer, see the RARS website ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)), or see Hank Montgomery K4HM or myself and we'll be sure to point you in the right direction.



## Tune In The RARS NEWS HOUR

- **Newsline**
- **ARRL Audio News**
- **R.A.I.N Report**

*Sunday Nights following the  
RARS 8:00 Net on 146.64*

# Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> **RARSFest** **2001** NEEDS YOU!

**Its time now to start spreading the word.**

If you attend meetings or other activities at other clubs – If you go to fox hunts – if you check into nets – if you do anything where you get a chance to talk to other hams in and around the Raleigh area, then start talking about the hamfest. Word of mouth advertising is the absolute best way of stirring up interest. If you know anyone that might be interested in attending the hamfest as a flea market or commercial vendor, put them in touch with Chuck Littlewood or Hank Montgomery. Lets make this years hamfest

**Hank Montgomery K4HM**  
**RARSfest Chairman**

bigger and better than last years hamfest.

And don't forget about all the activities associated with putting on the hamfest. Think about what you might like to participate in. There are plenty of places where help is needed. To quote a line some of you may remember from a few years back - "Come on in, the water's fine". Look over the list below and decide where you want to get your feet wet. A more detailed list is on the RARS web site.

**The millennium RARSfest is drawing near.** This year's fest will be on April 8<sup>th</sup> in the Jim Graham building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. The hamfest committee has been active for several months, and thanks to the great organization that stayed in place from last year, everything is on schedule. The flyers and tickets are ready and were taken to the FrostFest in Richmond. They will also be available at the Charlotte hamfest as well as at the RARS meetings.

## **RARSfest Committee**

<b>Setup</b>	Bernard Blackmon W4BRB	bernardb@mindspring.com	467-8719
<b>Admissions</b>	Bill Cole KG4CXY	bcole@jstart.com	469-0785
<b>Security</b>	Ron Ford KG4FJA	kg4fja@arrl.net	772-9127
<b>Com Center</b>	David Fix N4YTO	dfix@pagesz.net	677-8320
<b>Social</b>	Mary Jo Littlewood	k4hf@arrl.net	872-6555
<b>Stage</b>	Gary Pearce KN4AQ	kn4aq@arrl.net	380-9944
<b>Teardown</b>	Dave Thomas K4SAN	k4san@ipass.net	772-6338
<b>Chairman</b>	Hank Montgomery K4HM	k4hm@arrl.net	577-1254
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Tim Nicholson KF4RTX	kf4rtx@arrl.net	501-7746

## **Kid's Day Net Held On 64**

**Young Max Bertini KG4JEY hosted the Kid's Day Net** on 146.64 January 6<sup>th</sup>. Kid's Day is a nationwide event sponsored by the ARRL. Hams invite kids to get on the air and talk to both other hams and other kids (and with the average age of hams slipping above 50, this is not a bad idea!).

The net was set up by Kevin Dunphy W4KJD. Kevin reports that it ran about 30 minutes, with a dozen or so check-ins, a third of them guest operators.

Max, who got his license at last summer's RARS class along with his mom, Candy KG4JEX, may have had a mild case of first-time net control jitters (hey, who hasn't?). But he did a

great job! Thanks, Max!

Kevin also invited some guests to his station, Tuck Choate and his dad. They checked into the net, and listened to some HF activity, including some PSK 31.

There will be another Kid's day this summer - share your hobby!



*Max KG4JEY and mom KG4JEX. Below, Tuck Choate at W4KJD's station.*



## **SKYWARN Spotter Training at Feb Meeting**

The program for the February RARS meeting is SKYWARN Spotter Training, presented by George Lemons of the National Weather Service in Raleigh. As usual, everyone is welcome! **Business will be kept very short, and the program will start at 7:45.**

## **KG4HDT Takes Over RARS 10 Meter Net**

John KG4HDT has taken over the RARS 10 Meter Net, allowing Gary KN4AQ to "retire" and concentrate on other activities. The net has been thriving under John's supervision, with plenty of check-ins, lots of information and ragchews, and many stations following the net as it moves to lower HF bands to experiment with local propagation. (A recent experiment on 40 meters showed very poor local propagation at 9:30 PM, while it does much better when the sun is shining).

If you have HF capabilities, stop by the RARS 10 Meter net at about 8:30 PM Wednesdays at 28.364 MHz. Get net details on the 146.64 8:00 Net.



# SKYWARN Conference Coming to Raleigh - Feb. 17

Meteorologist Greg Dial from the National Storm Prediction Center will headline the **Second Annual Central Carolina SKYWARN Conference**, scheduled for Saturday afternoon, February 17, at 1 PM. The location is Jillian's, a well known night spot in Raleigh.

Also featured are **George Lemons** and **Joel Cline** from the National Weather Service office in Raleigh, **Greg Fishel** from WRAL-TV, and **Dave Osterberg** from NBC-17 TV.

Attendance is free! We would like to get a rough idea of how many people may be coming. Please RSVP to: [kf4jkq@arrrl.net](mailto:kf4jkq@arrrl.net). And look for updates on:

[www.CentralCarolinaSKYWARN.net](http://www.CentralCarolinaSKYWARN.net).



## On the Cover



*The "Raleigh Weather" SKYWARN operating position is right beside the Doppler RADAR position at the NWS office, on the NCSU Centennial Campus in Raleigh. The radio is a Kenwood TM-V7 Dual-band radio. In addition, the operator has a computer display with the latest watch and warning data, and a RADAR monitor.*

## Free Real-Time Doppler RADAR Now from NWS

**Gary Pearce KN4AQ**

The National Weather Service is now offering free, real-time images from their Doppler RADAR sites on the internet. For years, free RADAR images have been delayed 20 minutes or more, while real-time images were available by paid subscription (one of the services, **Weathertap**, is offered from the same company that publishes the *Amateur Radio Trader*). WRAL-TV has offered free, real-time images from their privately owned, single-site Doppler system for several years.

NOAA had contracted with private carriers to distribute the real-time RADAR. Those contracts have expired, and now NOAA is putting the real-time images on their web site:

[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov).

They're called "real-time", but are actually delayed a few minutes while the raw data is processed and a user-friendly image is generated. The site includes national maps and local coverage, and time-lapse loops. However, my first tests showed difficulty getting current information to reload. Some pages showed images just a few minutes old, while others aged 30 minutes.

### SKYWARN Conference Info:



**Date:** Saturday, February 17  
**Time:** 1:00 PM to about 4:30  
**Location:** Jillian's  
117 S. West St., Raleigh  
**RSVP:** [kf4jkq@arrrl.net](mailto:kf4jkq@arrrl.net)

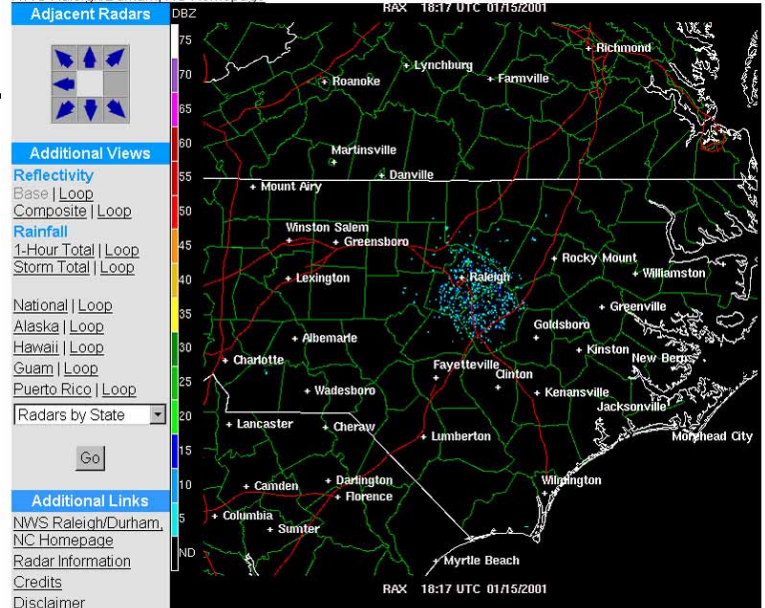
### Denyse Walter KG4CXR got into ham radio for one reason:

SKYWARN. Once licensed, Denyse and her husband Jim KG4FIJ have both jumped into public service with both feet. She also took on the RARS Membership Chairman job, and activated the Triangle Women's Net (Wednesday, 9 PM on 146.775). But SKYWARN remained her primary interest. If she's attending a RARS meeting or dinner on a Tuesday night when the SKYWARN information net comes on, you'll find her HT glued to her ear, tuned to 146.88.

Of course, Denyse volunteered as a SKYWARN Net Control, and gained experience as fast as she could. And last December, she found herself in heaven, operating as "Raleigh Weather" at the NWS office during a storm outbreak. The NWS likes to have a ham on duty whenever possible during severe weather to speed the reports from ham spotters across the area.

Denyse isn't the only Carolina ham with a deep interest in SKYWARN. On December 12, 2001, a series of severe thunderstorms rolled through the state, keeping SKYWARN on the air all night. At 3:35 AM, net control KN4AQ took an impromptu roll call. 30 stations checked in! At the NWS office, K5PF reported that the weather staff was impressed.

NWS Raleigh/Durham, NC Homepage



*More or less real-time image from NWS Doppler RADAR via Internet*

# ***RARS Winter 2001 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER***

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Membership information current as of January 12, 2001.  
Please send corrections to the treasurer - the Exciter editor  
does not maintain the club roster.

The RARS Board requires that the Roster be deleted from the Exciter file archived on the RARS web site, to protect the membership list from commercial use and junk mail. I've left the blank pages in place to preserve the Acrobat page numbering.

KN4AQ









# Get With the Program!

The January RARS meeting was a Radio Programming Clinic, with the goal of getting local repeaters programmed in everyone's radios. We don't know if that goal was totally achieved, but lots of people had fun. The RARS web page has lots of information on area repeaters, and the Wake ARES page has a list of "recommended repeaters" for ARES use: [www.wakeares.org](http://www.wakeares.org)



**Do it the easy way!** Bob K1RCB (lower right) uses a laptop to program handhelds quickly. Looking on: Kevin W4KJD (left) and James KG4GJ. Karl K4LNX and David KF4VXJ also brought laptops.

◀ Bill KG4CX works with Trudy KE4CZS at the Icom table.

Tom N4TAB attracted a crowd as he put radios through their paces with an IFR-1500 Service Monitor. Tom said most radios were right in spec.



◀ Clarence N2RJB studies the manual and finally gets that HT programmed.

▲ That's not an HT that Cait KU4QD is working on. It's the new Yaesu FT-817 super-micro HF/VHF/UHF 5-watt portable.



Bob KG4IZA and Jeff AC4ZO discuss programming philosophy. Jeff brought four radios to set up.



Hughie KF4RDU, Meme KE4NGM and Dick KD4ISC tackle a venerable Radio Shack HTX-202.



## HF Mobile SIG, Anyone?

**Gary Pearce KN4AQ**

You may have heard me blabbering on about my new HF mobile installation (Icom 706, Outbacker antenna). I'm really enjoying it. And it occurs to me that an occasional **HF Mobile SIG** meeting might be popular. Seems like this ought to be an indoor/outdoor kind of thing, where we can meet inside and talk about how things work and who's got problems, and also go outside and nose around, kicking some tires. Let the guy with Screwdrivers and Bugcatchers boast superiority over the guys with Hamsticks and Outbackers. Maybe even have our own shootout.

We probably ought to wait until it warms up a bit. This might work best on a weekend afternoon, or at least an evening when the sun's out late. We'll need a place with a meeting room and a nearby parking lot, too. Any suggestions?

If you have an HF mobile, or just want to hang around some guys who do, drop me a line or find me on the air.

## Local 6 Meter SSB Net Saturday Mornings

The NC 6M SSB Net, started and maintained by the late WD4MYM, is perpetuated by Roger KD4MYE and Eddie KD4CPV (net controls). Please make an effort to check in at 8am local time each Saturday morning. The frequency is 50.200 mhz USB, and net controls are in Youngsville and Bunn, NC.

## SEDAN Node On Air from Eastern Wake

**Ronnie Reams WA4MJF**

A joint project of CSC and TEARA, a SEDAN Node is now operational on 145.77 mc in Zebulon, NC. The callsign is K4RTP-7. Try it out and leave any comments in my personal mailbox WA4MJF-1 or EMAIL me at [wa4mjf@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wa4mjf@worldnet.att.net).

Hope this helps in any emergency communications needs that arise.

Of course, don't forget the regular packet store and forward system on 147.54 MHz.

For more information, visit the TEARA web site:

[www.ipass.net/~teara](http://www.ipass.net/~teara)

[SEDAN is a keyboard-to-keyboard "live chat" packet network that has nodes across the southeast, although the Triangle area has not had a SEDAN node until recently. SEDAN had been heavily promoted by creator Buck Rogers K4ABT, but I checked his [www.sedan.org](http://www.sedan.org) web page before publishing this issue, and there's nary a mention of SEDAN. What's up? Well, the network still is - check it out! - KN4AQ]

## NC-ARRL E-Mail List Fixed

The North Carolina ARRL Section has two new e-mail listservers for bulletins, announcements and general discussion traffic related to the ARRL NC Field Organization. All ARRL members in the North Carolina section with e-mail are urged to subscribe to these lists. (Most subscribers to the old list were automatically subscribed to the new list's *digest* version, explained below).

A listserver had been in operation for several years, and had seen some use, but suffered from a few operational problems. Late last year, a series of SPAM message with virus-infected attachments caused great concern among list subscribers.

The list managers, Gary Suddreth KD4YTU and Errol Casey KD4IHW, have completely revamped the listserver, and should have solved all the problems.

To subscribe to the new lists, stop by the NC ARRL Web Page:

[www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org).

Some people may not want to receive *any* general e-mail traffic from the list. A second list, *NC-ARRL-Announce*, has also been set up. Only a few Section ARRL appointees may post to that list, so you will only receive official bulletins and announcements.

You can also select a *digest* option, and all the messages handled by the list in one day will be wrapped up and sent to you in a single e-mail. If you subscribed to the original list, you have probably been automatically subscribed to the digest, and you should have received an e-mail message about that.

An *archive* has also been set up, so you can review old messages after you've deleted them from your computer's e-mail program. You can access the archive from the nc-arrl web page.



**Join Us At The  
RARS Dinner**



**Every 4th Tuesday, 6:30 pm at  
Fat Daddy's on Glenwood Ave.**

# KN4AQ Appointed SERA Repeater Journal Associate Editor

Well, that's the good news. At the January board meeting of SERA, the Southeastern Repeater Association, I was appointed associate editor of the **Repeater Journal**. What that means is that over the next year, I'll be learning the job in preparation of picking up a large part of the publishing duties beginning in 2002.

Wayne Williams K4MOB, has been the **Journal's** editor for nearly 30 years. In the last issue, Wayne discussed his battle with cancer,

a battle he's won, but which scared him into realizing he's almost as mortal as the rest of us. Wayne and the SERA board realized that the continued publication of the **Repeater Journal** shouldn't rest on just one person's shoulders. So Wayne began searching for an assistant, and an eventual replacement.

After seeing the **Exciter**, Wayne began talking to me about taking on that job.

In late December, I visited Wayne and saw how he put the Journal together. We talked about production, editorial, budget, and all the stuff that it takes to make a magazine. I agreed to take the job.

And now the bad news:

## EXCITER EDITOR NEEDED

Alas, I won't be able to do both the Exciter and the Repeater Journal. I plan to keep going with the Exciter for the rest of this year, but I would like to begin handing it over to a new editor during that time. Unfortunately, I don't have a candidate in mind.

Several RARS members have commented that no one else would be able to produce the Exciter the way I have for the past year. I don't know if that's true, but it does not have to be this elaborate. It's nice, but it's a luxury.

A club newsletter, though, is a necessity. We do need an editor for at least a publication that will document and announce club activity. I'll always be around to help and provide content.

If you're interested, contact me. If you'd like the challenge of a KN4AQ-style Exciter, I can provide software and training. It is a little work, but the rewards are tremendous.

# Club Meeting Minutes

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001

## Minutes of the Regular January RARS Meeting - January 2, 2001

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on January 2, 2001 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31p by President Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX who welcomed 61 members and 1 guest.

Jeff, AC4ZO presented the Bylaws as published in the January 2001 Exciter. He gave an explanation of why the bylaws need to be approved, and on motion by N4TAB, seconded by KF4VXJ, the bylaws were adopted by the membership.

Hank, K4HM said a few words about the hamfest, and then began the recruiting of volunteers.

Gary, KN4AQ announced the second annual Skywarn Conference to be held Saturday, February 17 at Jillian's in Raleigh. And an ARES event is planned for Saturday January 13 at the State EOC.

With that completing the announcements, at 7:38 the podium was turned over to Gary, KN4AQ for the evening's program: **A Radio Programming Clinic**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04p.

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary

# Board Meeting Minutes

December, 2000

The December Board Meeting was cancelled for the holidays.

**Check Into the RARS  
8:00 Net Each Evening  
on the 146.64 Repeater**

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## Snapshots



This is what DXing purely portable on the beach at Windy Hill, South Carolina looked like last September. The rig was an Alinco DX-70TH with a Vectronics mobile antenna tuner, and an inverted V for 20, powered by a 8 amp hour gel cell. I worked Germany and Cyprus on 10 watts, and went to 50 for an island off the coast of Angola. Lots of Pennsylvania stations in the PA QSO party with great signal reports. The left picture shows the operator's view, and the encroaching tide (which you can't see in the dark, hi). The picture to the right shows the antenna mount, which is a 7 year old Little Tykes wagon. (Please ignore the obscene condos)



*Bob confided in the Editor that he operated until both evening and the tide approached faster than he expected. The station was disassembled in the dark.*

## Hamfest Calendar

February 11: Elkin  
March 10/11: Charlotte  
March 25: Kinston  
April 8: **RARSfest**  
April 15: Morganton  
May 27: Durham



courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal